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Message Text

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41
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CPR-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 INR-10

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 DRC-01 /079 W
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P 061115Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6977

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. SOFIA 0478; 30 APR 1973: B. SOFIA 1131

1. BULGARIAN COUNTERPROPOSALS CITED REF (B) AND CONSUL'S TALKS WITH CHIEF MFA CONSULAR SECTION (KARASLAVOV) SUGGEST WE MAY STILL BE FAIRLY FAR FROM AGREEMENT ON CRITICAL ISSUES IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONSULAR CONVENTION. IN ARTICLE 15, BULGARIANS HOLDING OUT FOR INVIOLABILITY TO EXTEND BEYOND CONSULAR OFFICERS TO "CONSULAR STAFF MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES" WHEREAS ASSUME DEPT INTENT IS FOR GREATER RESTRICTION. EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, BULGARIANS NOT PREPARED TO TREAT DUAL NATIONALITY (FOR PURPOSES NOTIFICATION AND ACCESS) IN CONTEXT CONSULAR AGREEMENT AS SEPARATE NOTE OR OTHERWISE.

2. NEW BULGARIAN WORDING FOR ARTICLE 38 DOES NOT INCLUDE DESIRED SPECIFICS ON DETAINEE RIGHTS TO RECEIVE MAIL, MEDICINES, READING AND WRITING MATERIALS. KARASLAVOV HAS STATED SUCH WOULD CONFLICT WITH EXISTING PRISON REGULATIONS AND GUARANTEES WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SECURE IN TREATY CONTEXT. KARASLAVOV STATED BULGARIANS PREPARED TO ACCEPT US TIME LIMITS FOR NOTIFICATION AND ACCESS (TWO AND THREE DAYS RESPECTIVELY) AS REFINEMENT BULGARIAN FEBRUARY 1973 DRAFT PROTOCOL (EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO SEE LIMITS IN BODY OF TREATY
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BUT ASSUMES SEPARATE TREATMENT NOT CRITICAL MATTER).

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3. REGARDING ESTATES, NO INDICATION YET THAT BULGARIANS PREPARED OFFER GUARANTEES FOR US RECIPIENTS OF INTERESTS IN BULGARIAN ESTATES TO OVER-RIDE EXISTING BULGARIAN LAW AND REGULATIONS PRECLUDING CONVERTIBILITY BULGARIAN PROPERTY INTO EXPORTABLE CURRENCY. THIS IS RECURRING PROBLEM WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES SHOULD BE SOLVED IN MEANINGFUL WAY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACILITY WITH WHICH BULGARIAN HEIRS TO US ESTATES ARE BENEFITING REGULARLY.

4. OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE TREATY QUICKLY, KARASLAVOV INDICATED READINESS TO RECEIVE US NEGOTIATING TEAM ANYTIME FORESEEABLE FUTURE EXCEPT LAST WEEK SEPTEMBER AND SECOND HALF NOVEMBER 1973. EMBASSY ALSO MOST INTERESTED IN TAKING NEXT STEP TOWARD CONCLUSION TREATY. IF DEPT CONCLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF DIFFERENCES BEING SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED WARRANTS SENDING A NEGOTIATOR, WE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MOVE. BUT IF DIFFERENCES NEED FURTHER CLARIFICATION BECAUSE BULGARIANS HAVE EITHER FALLEN SHORT IN MEETING OUR NEEDS OR APPEAR TO BE AVOIDING ISSUES (SUCH AS WITH FURTHER SPECIFICS IN ARTICLE 38 AND WITH REFERENCE TO INHERITANCES), RECOMMEND DEPT STATE OUR POSITION IN NOTE AND PROVIDE TEXT BY CABLE FOR DELIVERY HERE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SOFIA01183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BATJER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730951/aaaablik.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SOFIA 0478; 30 APR 1973: B. SOFIA
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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